

Ann C. Lewis

Candidate for Rochester City Council

South District

- Name one issue on which you disagree with the current administration and why.

There are several issues which I do not support, that the current administration seems to embrace. However, the one policy (ies) that appears be crippling our city, are the massive tax breaks that are too often being awarded to parasitic developers and the unequal distribution of monetary resources throughout the city as a whole. Such policies are currently promoting dissention and a sense of powerlessness within the less affluent areas of the city.

- What is the most important issue facing your district, and what is a specific proposal or action you propose to address it?

The most severe issue facing my district and the City of Rochester at large, is the lack of access and opportunity for all children to secure an education that is; rigorous, data driven, and culturally relevant to the population our tax dollars pay to educate.

- Please identify one area in the city budget where you think the city should commit more resources than is currently proposed and why.

I strongly believe more of the Rochester's city budget should be committed to the enhancement of our neighborhoods and small business development. Our local and national government must be committed to the empowerment of its residents. In this old proverb there is much wisdom, "Give a man a fish and you feed him for a day; teach a man to fish and you feed him for a lifetime."

- What policies would you pursue to address housing affordability, evictions and/or landlord-tenant relations in your district?

Affordable housing is an essential element to promote cultural and economic diversity within the City of Rochester. Our City Council members must put in place a check and balance system to make sure residents have unlabored access to the affordable housing units. We must continue to thrive to keep the lines of communication open between landlords and renters. Any and all policies impacting these relationships, must be fair and equitable, to ensure neither feels victimized by the other.

- Will you vote for the Police Accountability Board as proposed in November – why or why not?

I would only vote yes to a Police Accountability Board, which has binding guidelines/sanctions, for police officers who practice counterproductive policing practices.

- Do you support Mayor Warren’s push for a referendum calling for removal of the elected school board in favor of a state takeover of RCSD/appointed board, and why?

There were 84 Recommendations made by the distinguished educator Dr. Aquino, to improve student learning in the Rochester City School district, none of those recommendation called for, “the removal of the elected school board, in favor of state control.” Our State Commissioner of Regents Mary Ellen Elias advised, “We now have the frame work in place to give our students the opportunity to succeed.” I can truly embrace Mayor’s Warren’s commitment to find a way to ensure our students to have every chance at a superb education. Unless, I misunderstood Mayor Warren’s earlier new releases, she seemed to respect and agree with the recommendations of Dr. Aquino. It is time for the community to really, and I mean

really, work together to make sure the implementation of the new “Framework for Success.” is indeed a success.

- What current policy or practice of city government would you seek to change if (re)elected, and why?

There is a lack public trust in the individuals who govern the City of Rochester. I would abolish the mechanism that are currently in place that permit City Council Members to go into side bar conversations or have closed doors meeting. All meetings should be on the record, Period. The ability to throw a rock, and then hide your hand must be abolished.